

SYSTEM FOR TEMPERATURE MONITORING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 The present application claims priority to Application No. 102 49 041.4, filed in the Federal Republic of Germany on October 22, 2002, which is expressly incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention relates to a system for monitoring the temperature prevailing in the stator unit of an electric drive.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

15 In modern electric drives, monitoring of the winding temperature on the stator unit is generally provided for safety reasons. In this manner, subsequent electronics or, if needed, an emergency shutdown, can be initiated in the event of overheating. The particular temperature data detected by a temperature sensor situated in the stator unit is often transmitted via a position measuring device, a rotary encoder, 20 for example, which is situated on the drive. The position measuring device transmits to the sequential electronics not only the detected position data for further processing, but also the temperature data and possibly other data. Reference may be made to Japanese Published Patent Application No. 25 8-261792 in this regard. In particular in the case of serial data transmission for sequential electronics, the particular temperature is determined directly from the output signals sent by the temperature sensor in a signal processing unit of the position measuring device or in the sensor electronics. 30 However, because of the normally high motor currents in the region of the stator unit, significant interference effects on the signal processing unit or sensor electronics result. Since the signal processing unit is also used for further

processing of position-dependent signals, such interference also adversely affects the processing of the position data in the position measuring device. Such interference effects can be minimized only using a relatively high expenditure of resources, for example, by suitable interference suppression measures.

It is an aspect of the present invention to provide a system for monitoring the temperature in the stator unit of an electric drive which may ensure accurate temperature determination with the smallest possible expenditure of resources. The least possible interference of other sensor systems on the drive may result, in particular, of a position measuring device situated on the drive.

SUMMARY

The above and other beneficial aspects of the present invention may be achieved by providing a system as described herein.

Example embodiments of the system according to the present invention for temperature monitoring are described herein.

An example embodiment of the present invention may provide for electric isolation of the actual temperature sensor from the electronics of the position measuring device, in particular of the signal processing unit itself. This may be achieved by providing an electrical transmitter unit via which the temperature-dependent sensor signals from the temperature sensor which is integrated into the stator unit are injected into the signal processing unit or electronics of the position measuring device for further processing.

Use of the transmitter unit may ensure good suppression of interference effects, in particular common-mode interference, on the sensor electronics or signal processing unit of the position measuring device. Sufficient insulation between the electrical circuit of the temperature sensor and the processing unit of the position measuring device may be ensured.

With respect to the actual design of the transmitter unit, there may be many different types of arrangement possibilities, depending on the application.

5 In an example embodiment of the present invention, a system for monitoring a temperature prevailing in a stator unit of an electric drive includes a position measurement device connected to the drive including a signal processor unit, an electrical transmitter unit, and a temperature sensor integrated into windings of the stator unit and configured to
10 deliver a temperature-dependent sensor signal. The electrical transmitter unit is configured to input the sensor signal into the signal processor unit.

The temperature sensor may include a temperature-dependent resistor integrated into the windings of the stator
15 unit. The electrical transmitter unit may include at least two inductively coupled coils, a first one of the coils associated with the signal processor unit, and a second one of the coils associated with the temperature sensor. The first one of the coils may be arranged to be acted on by activation
20 signals via the electrical transmitter unit to detect the temperature-dependent sensor signal. The electrical transmitter unit may include at least one measuring shunt having a constant resistance value.

The system may include an arrangement configured to
25 generate a sinusoidal alternating excitation signal and a voltage divider circuit. The voltage divider circuit, the measuring shunt and a temperature-dependent resistance of the temperature sensor transformed by the transmitter unit may be adapted to detect the temperature-dependent sensor signal.

30 The system may include an arrangement configured to generate a pulsed excitation signal and a voltage divider circuit. The voltage divider circuit, the measuring shunt and a temperature dependent resistance of the temperature sensor transformed by the transmitter unit may be adapted to detect
35 the temperature-dependent sensor signal.

The transmitter unit may include an oscillator circuit, and the system may include an arrangement configured to

determine a frequency of a periodic reply signal to detect the temperature-dependent sensor signal.

The signal processor unit may include an arrangement configured to determine the temperature in accordance with the sensor signals, and the signal processor unit may include a signal transmitter configured to transmit at least temperature data to a subsequent electronic device. The signal transmitter may be configured for serial data transmission to the sequential electronic device.

The system may include means for generating one of a sinusoidal alternating excitation signal and a pulsed excitation signal and a voltage divider circuit. The voltage divider circuit, the measuring shunt and a temperature-dependent resistance of the temperature sensor transformed by the transmitter unit may be adapted to detect the temperature-dependent sensor signal.

The transmitter unit may include an oscillator circuit, and the system may include means for determining a frequency of a periodic reply signal to detect the temperature-dependent sensor signal.

The signal processor may include means for determining the temperature in accordance with the sensor signals.

In an example embodiment of the present invention, a system for monitoring a temperature prevailing in a stator unit of an electronic drive includes position measuring means connected to the drive including signal processing means, electrical transmitting means, and temperature sensing means integrated into windings of the stator unit for delivering a temperature-dependent sensor signal. The electrical transmitting means is for inputting the sensor signal into the signal processing means.

Additional aspects and details of the present invention result from the following description of exemplary embodiments, with reference to the accompanying Figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram of the system according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2a is a schematic block diagram for explaining a first variant of a suitable transmitter unit.

5 Figure 2b is a signal diagram for explaining the signal processing in the transmitter unit variant illustrated in Figure 2a.

Figure 3a is a schematic block diagram for explaining a second variant of a suitable transmitter unit.

10 Figure 3b is a signal diagram for explaining the signal processing in the transmitter unit variant illustrated in Figure 3a.

Figure 4a is a schematic block diagram for explaining a third suitable transmitter unit variant.

15 Figure 4b is a signal diagram for explaining the signal processing in the transmitter unit variant illustrated in Figure 4a.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

20 Figure 1 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the system according to the present invention in schematic form. The stator unit of an electric drive, an asynchronous motor, for example, is designated by reference number 10 in this illustration. A cable 11 which supplies power to the drive is indicated only schematically. A position measuring device 20
25 designed as a rotary encoder is connected to the drive via a shaft 30. Position measuring device 20 is used primarily to generate position-dependent output signals or position data with respect to the shaft rotation. The position-dependent
30 output signals are transmitted via a signal transmission line 21, e.g., in serial form, to subsequent electronics 40 for further processing. Sequential electronics 40 may be a drive control, for example.

35 Generation of position-dependent output signals by position measuring device 20 is not discussed in further detail here. This may be achieved by conventional methods using optical, magnetic, inductive, capacitive, etc. scanning

of a measuring graduation or code disc which rotates with shaft 30. The generated position-dependent output signals may be either absolute position data or incremental position data, etc. In the illustration, in Figure 1, in addition to the position measuring device, a signal processing unit 22 is also indicated by which, among other functions, the processing of position data, for example the extraction of absolute position data, interpolation, etc., and the conditioning of data to be transmitted to sequential electronics 40 are performed. With regard to additional functions of signal processing unit 22 in connection with temperature monitoring of stator unit 10, reference is made to the following description.

As previously indicated, the system according to the present invention provides for monitoring of the temperature of windings in stator unit 10 of the drive, and transmission of corresponding temperature-dependent sensor signals, via signal transmission line 21, for further processing by subsequent electronics 40. In this manner an emergency shutdown, for example, may be initiated by sequential electronics 40 in the case of overheating. In addition, the temperature-dependent sensor signals from sequential electronics 40 may be used for other control purposes, e.g., for prevention of unacceptably high operating temperatures in the drive windings, etc.

The temperature-dependent sensor signals are actually generated in the stator unit 10 of the drive via a temperature sensor 15. Temperature sensor 15 may be arranged as a temperature-dependent resistor, for example as a semiconducting resistor having positive temperature coefficients, as marketed under model number KTY 84 by Philips. Temperature sensor 15 may be integrated into the windings of stator unit 10 by conventional methods, for example, in an open winding on the end face of the stator. Temperature sensor 15 is electrically insulated from the drive winding by schematically indicated insulation 16.

According to an example embodiment of the present invention, an electrical transmitter unit 23 is provided by

which the temperature-dependent sensor signals generated from temperature sensor 15 are injected into signal processing unit 22 of position measuring device 20, to be further processed there and transmitted to sequential electronics 40 via signal transmission line 21. As can be seen in the schematic illustration of transmitter unit 23 in Figure 1, transmitter unit 23 essentially includes two inductively coupled coils 23.1, 23.2. A first coil 23.1 is associated with signal processing unit 22, and a second coil 23.2 is associated with temperature sensor 15 in stator unit 10. Transmitter unit 23 may optionally have a core 23.3 as well. Further details of example embodiments of suitable electrical transmitter units 23 are presented in the following description of remaining Figures 2a through 4b.

Electrical transmitter unit 23 may ensure electrical isolation between signal processing unit 22 on position measuring device 20 and the electrical circuit of temperature sensor 15. Any interference effects of temperature sensor 15 on signal processing unit 22 of position measuring device 20, such as high common-mode currents in the wiring of temperature sensor 15, may be minimized in this manner. The use of transmitter unit 23 may guarantee the power supply to temperature sensor 15.

In addition, device 22.1 for determining the temperature based on the injected sensor signals are indicated in schematic form in Figure 1 in addition to signal processing unit 22. Device 22.1 may be a microprocessor, for example. In addition, signal processing unit 22 (indicated only schematically) has signal transmission device 22.2 by which the temperature data, as well as other data such as position data, are transmitted to the subsequent electronics. Signal transmission device 22.2 may be adapted for serial data transmission to sequential electronics 40 via signal transmission line 21.

In principle, the particular variants of suitable transmitter units have possibilities for generating an excitation signal and for detecting the temperature-dependent

sensor signal. Example embodiment possibilities of suitable transmitter units are explained with reference to subsequent Figures 2a through 4b.

Figure 2a shows a first variant of an example embodiment of a suitable electrical transmitter unit 223. A sinusoidal alternating signal, a sinusoidal current signal or voltage signal $U(t)$, for example, is used as the excitation signal which is generated by a suitable alternating signal source 223.5 in the form of a current or voltage source, and which supplies power to first coil 223.1 in a first section of transmitter unit 223. Second coil 223.2 and temperature sensor 15 are arranged in the second, electrically isolated section of transmitter unit 223. The first and second coils are coupled via a core 223.3, as shown in Figure 1. A measuring shunt 223.4 (resistance value R_M) is indicated in the first section of transmitter unit 223 which represents the first resistor of a known voltage divider circuit. The transformed resistance of temperature sensor 15 (resistance value R_T) functions as the second resistor of the voltage divider circuit. The particular resistance value R_T of temperature sensor 15 is transformed according to the known transmission ratio of transmitter unit 223. The unknown resistance of temperature sensor 15 -- and therefore the temperature itself -- may thus be determined in, e.g., a conventional manner, using the known, constant measuring shunt 223.4, taking into account the distortion by transmitter unit 223. Measured voltage signal $U_T(t)$ picked up via the transformed resistance of temperature sensor 15 functions as the measurement variable.

Figure 2b illustrates the sinusoidal excitation signal in the form of sinusoidal voltage signal $U(t)$ in addition to measured voltage $U_T(t)$ picked up by transformed temperature sensor 15, from which it is possible to obtain, e.g., by conventional methods, the temperature information of interest regarding temperature sensor 15.

A second example embodiment of a suitable transmitter unit 323 is shown in schematic form in Figure 3a. A pulsed

excitation signal $U(t)$, for example in the form of a suitable current or voltage pulse which is generated from a suitable pulsed signal source 323.5, is used as the excitation signal. First coil 323.1 is acted on by pulsed excitation signal $U(t)$ in the first section of transmitter unit 323. Second coil 323.2 and temperature sensor 15, in the form of a temperature-dependent resistor, are arranged in the second section of transmitter unit 323. As in the previous example, both coils 323.1, 323.2 are coupled via a core 323.3. The actual temperature-dependent sensor signal $U_T(t)$ is detected as the response to applied excitation signal $U(t)$ via measuring shunt 323.4 arranged in the first section of transmitter unit 323. Temperature sensor 15 or the corresponding temperature-dependent resistor used for this purpose is thus a component of a voltage divider in this example. Value $U_T(t)$ of the sensor signal, which results and is measured immediately after application of voltage pulse $U(t)$, is a direct measure of the resistance to be determined, and thus of the temperature to be determined in the drive winding. With regard to the signal variation by applied voltage pulse $U(t)$ and value $U_T(t)$ of the sensor signal determined via the measuring shunt, reference is made to Figure 3b.

A third example embodiment of a transmitter unit 423 is explained with reference to Figures 4a and 4b. To generate a periodic excitation signal, an oscillator circuit is provided in this example embodiment which may be arranged as a multivibrator, for example, and which has the design illustrated in Figure 4a. The second section of transmitter unit 423 may have an identical design to the variant explained in the previous examples, and essentially includes second coil 423.2 and temperature sensor 15 in the form of a temperature-dependent resistor. In addition to first coil 423.1, the referenced oscillator circuit is arranged in the first section of transmitter unit 423, which is coupled to the second section via a core 423.3. The oscillator circuit includes, among other components, a capacitor C , an operational amplifier OV , and two resistors R_1 , R_2 .

The resistance of temperature sensor 15 to be measured forms an additional component of the resulting oscillator, and represents the frequency-determining element of the oscillator. Frequency f generated by the oscillator is thus a measure of the resistance to be determined, and may be determined from measured signal $U_A(t)$, as illustrated in Figure 4b. The temperature of interest in the drive winding once results, e.g., in a conventional manner, from the determined resistance, it being understood that the component tolerances which influence frequency f may also be taken into account.

In addition to the described variants for producing suitable transmitter units, there are other alternative embodiment possibilities within the scope of the present invention.